Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner: Golden Sierra Life Skills	Date: November 10, 2004
Number of Children Served:  11 – Total Children	Ages: 3-5 year olds ( A more accurate breakdown will be kept for the next conversation)
When Served: April 2003 – November 2004	Gender: 6 female – 5 male Ethnicity: Not recorded

**Conversation Participants:** Tom Grayson, Debbie Dahl, Mike Romero, Nancy Baggett, Don Ferretti, Fiona Tuttle, Heidi Kolbe - Facilitator

## **Desired Outcomes:**

- Fathers and Father Figures become more knowledgeable in child nurturing, child interacting, parenting, and use these skills to promote their child's appropriate development.
- Financial sustainability for the M.I.C. Program independent of First 5 funding.

## **Performance Measures:**

- Early Childhood Outcome Screens
- Adult Outcome Screens (for fathers of 0-5)

# What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

#### Adult Screen

The indication of less drug and alcohol use/ abuse is attributed to a combination of the court ordered programs and the MIC class. A sober dad is a more aware dad.

Also, pointing out the cost of alcohol in relation to the child's needs (i.e., cost of pampers) can give the dad a perspective on the financial impact of his drug and alcohol use/abuse.

Clients improved in the "out of trouble" indicator. Generally when this happens the child is safer. As the father goes, so goes the child.

More fathers are financially supporting their children using information given in the budget management component.

#### Early Childhood Screen

They do not have first hand access to the children. The child's condition is determined through inferences made in dealing with the father and occasionally a minimal observation of the child at MIC dinners or other events.

The parent/caregiver indicators (17,18,19) are used the most to infer the child's condition. Those indicators showed improvement and most reflect the impact of the program.

The data showed that all children were safe at the first screen (rated at a 5 or 4) and this rating stayed the same through the second screen.

#### Class Evaluations

According to written evaluations completed by the fathers, their relationship with their child improved.

Fathers have learned more about their child's development. They also learned about the effect of their negative behaviors on their child's development.

Please review attachments for more information for all of the above.

# In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

There is a question as to how effective the administration of the early childhood screen is for this program.

Without having the child present, assessing the child through the outcome screen is difficult. But even with limited first hand information about the child, it is still worth completing the pertinent indicators on the child screen. This brings the child into the picture and potentially can identify other needs of the child and/or other services that are appropriate.

There needs to be a way to get more information about the condition of the children. For example, it might be useful to try having the father participate in completing the child screen or, summarize the pertinent indicators and involve the father in rating the indicators.

## Other points that were made during the conversation:

Referrals are received primarily from the courts, community outreach and word of mouth.

Program staff put a lot of weight in the father's active participation in the class, and the regularity of that participation.

People can get better when they have multiple supports.

Peer pressure and stories from fathers that have been incarcerated is effective feedback for those who might be headed in that direction if they do not change their behaviors.

The program is open to those who have graduated and still need outside support from time to time.

The "Building of a Child" video is used in the class. This film builds an appreciation for the tremendous development that happens during the 0-5 years and the power of the father's behavior as a model for the child.

There is a focus on "image shifting" of how the clients see themselves as fathers in addition to their other roles. In other words, helping the father view their behaviors from a different perspective.

# Next Steps:

In order to get some first hand information about the child, pilot test various ways of drawing out child specific information from the father and then completing the early childhood screen with the father.

Provide more specific information on how much money has actually been received as a result of the financial sustainability strategies. Also, show how these new funds are applied to the First 5 funded activities to sustain the program.

Next learning conversation: February 2005

Collect outcome screens from the Tahoe program to be reviewed in the next conversation.